

From: Tedd Potts
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

US Department of Justice:

What specifically did Microsoft do that was illegal? When one looks closely it becomes obvious that Microsoft's "crimes" were: choosing whom to do business with, setting the terms of those business relationships, pricing some products "too low", and pricing other products "too high".

It is important to remember that we are all producers: at a minimum, we produce manual labor and the thought required to make it valuable. Microsoft did not defraud anyone, so if one argues that government should restrict Microsoft's choices, then it would follow that they would wish government to restrict any producer's choices, once the government decides that that producer is too successful.

Note that Microsoft is a target only because they are successful. If they were the size of Apple Computer they would be left free to make their own choices. So, under present American anti-trust regulations, a producer is left relatively free until the government decides he is too successful, at which time the government begins to limit his success and reward his lesser competitors.

This not the proper use of government power in a free society, otherwise all producers, all individuals, would be at the mercy of arbitrary government decisions regarding the "proper" level of success. That environment would more akin to Communist China's than "the land of the free and the home of the brave".

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